

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

Minutes

January 5, 2005

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order on Wednesday, January 5, 2005, at 4:10 p.m. by Bill Safrit, in the Council Chamber, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Greta Connor, James Donaldson, Judy Kandl, Michael Lippard, Barbara Perry, Johnny Safrit, Bill Safrit, and Preston Sale

Absent: Cindee Bridges, Suzette Davis, and Bruce Wilson

Staff: Lynn Raker and Diana Moghrabi

Mr. Bill Safrit opened the meeting with the approval of the December minutes and the December financial report. Barbara Perry, Co-Chair, led the remainder of the meeting agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Art in Public Places

- **HAT** (History and Art Trail). Members of CAC were shown a 16" x 20" paper example of the bronze plaques that are being proposed for the DSI History and Art Trail. This walking trail through Salisbury is the result of the many efforts of members of the History Committee, City staff, the Downtown Salisbury, Inc. Master Plan, and a charette. Ray Moose is developing the artistic aspects of the project. If a marker is used on a sidewalk it should contain minimal relief on its surface. Markers are estimated to cost \$1,000 each. The committee hopes to include some large installations, too.

Much of the factual information comes from The Carolina Watchman newspaper articles available at the Rowan Public Library. Opinions about historical facts have been the largest controversy.

It is time to apply for grants for this project from The Proctor Foundation, The Woodson Foundation, The Blanche and Julian Robertson Foundation, and the North Carolina Arts Council.

The committee is not interested in any more "history on a stick" and they do not want to duplicate efforts of organizations like those of the Civil War Trail.

- **Mosaic Project.** The one-inch tiles for the mosaic project are in Robert Crum's basement where he is presently laying them out on a grid and numbering them for installation in the spring. Pictures of the progress were made available at the meeting.

A letter will be sent out to contributors to update them on the mosaic project, as well as solicitations for more contributions. A letter was sent to Charlie Walters to thank him for his support in the mosaic project.

Neighborhoods & Education Committee

- **Small Area Planning.** Planning staff and members of CAC met to discuss a framework for small area planning. A presentation was given on the process used in the Park Avenue rehabilitation. A physical plan is needed to determine future policies of small area planning. The North Main Street Neighborhood is participating in this process.
- **Jersey City.** A plan for sidewalks in the Jersey City neighborhood is being developed at the City of Salisbury's staff level. Staff will then take the plan to the neighborhood for their input.
- **Historic Preservation Survey for Community Leaders.** Two versions of a survey were offered to the CAC for their input on the state's historic preservation comprehensive plan.

Landscaping

- **Tree Topping & Pruning.** The subject of tree topping and pruning continues to surface, especially in the historic district. Public utilities are not required to get a Certificate of Appropriateness for they are allowed by right to use standard practices that assure power usage "down the line."

Sec. 24-52. Tree topping. (City Ordinance)

It shall be unlawful as normal practice, except as described in this section, for any person or city department to top any street tree, park tree or other tree on public property. Topping is defined as the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three (3) inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, or certain trees that interfere with or are an imminent threat to utility wires or other obstructions where other pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this section at the determination of the city tree board.

(Code 1977, § 25.5-22)

The Tree Board would like to see the tree ordinance updated with the help of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Community Appearance Commission (CAC). This would be the first update since it was adopted. Barbara Perry served on that original

committee and would like two other members of CAC to participate. It was agreed that Johnny Safrit and Cyndee Bridges would be good on this committee and Barbara could help out if their schedules did not permit their attendance. It was agreed that lunch meetings would be the most accommodating time.

- ***E. Innes Street Railroad Bridge.*** A request has been made for \$5,000 that will enable tree plantings along the sidewalk in the right of way on the private property side. A planted median will be included in the bridge project from Long Street to the bridge. A turn lane to Long Street is also included in the project. The median will have a water tap and electricity. This bridge will serve as an entrance to downtown Salisbury.

East Innes St. at I-85 Bridge. There are plans to replace the hog wire fencing with metal rail fencing for control access, and to add stamped and stained concrete in the medians where there will not be plantings. The City has no authority under the I-85 bridge for lighting, so lighting that was originally discussed will not be included in this project.

- A billboard owner made a request to cut trees that are blocking the visibility of his advertisement. He does not own the land that this billboard is on out on Jake Alexander Boulevard. NCDOT was contacted about the matter and Chris Corriher suggested that it was OK with them if the City of Salisbury was in favor of cutting the trees. This appeared to be inconsistent with previous directions from NCDOT. It was mentioned that property on Jake Alexander Boulevard had been given to the City of Salisbury to maintain.

The Community Appearance Commission voted to oppose cutting the trees for a billboard for they did not want to set a precedent.

- ***Crape Myrtle Trees.*** There is much dismay among members of CAC concerning the manner that people use to prune crape myrtle trees. The public needs education and information on this matter.
- ***South Main Street at Horah.*** Unsightly furniture, cars and trailers continue to clutter the neighborhood. CAC requested that staff send correspondence to the property owners asking them to clear these items.

This conversation led to a discussion on the enforcement policies and fines that can be imposed. Enforcement can be difficult.

- ***Oakdale Cemetery Wall.*** The wall is completed and landscaped.

Municipal Service District (MSD) and Innes Street Improvement Grants (ISG)

- Since there was not enough money in the MSD budget to grant the full-qualified amount, the Stitchin' Post Gifts will wait until the next MSD grant cycle to apply again.

- ISG: Three Fifteen Nightclub was eligible for \$1,500 and will receive the full amount to assist the business in directing patrons to alternate parking in the NSSA parking lot, and to improve pedestrian access in general.
- ISG: In order to bring signs into compliance in the Innes Street Gateway, Hardee's will receive \$5,000 from CAC to replace their damaged sign. Since there is only \$1400 remaining in the grant fund, City Council will be asked to make up the \$3,600 difference.

Further details are available in the report of December 21, 2004 of the MSD and ISG Grant Committee.

Since 1981 the following figures have been compiled for MSD Grants:

Number of MSD Grants:	185
Total Private Investment:	\$ 4,577,133.65
Total Public Investment:	\$ 341,744.04

One member of CAC would like to request an increase in the grants budget while the other members felt that the City's financial belt had been tightened and this is not the time to make such a request. CAC should wait another year before requesting any increases in the budget.

GOALS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Members of the CAC received an updated version of the CAC goals that Chairman Bruce Wilson will present to Council on January 18. Bill Safrit made a motion to accept the goals. Greta Connor seconded the motion with all members voting AYE.

OTHER BUSINESS

A recommendation was made to contact the new Waterworks Visual Arts director, Lori McMahon, and invite her to a CAC meeting.

Section 1.02. Membership, qualifications and terms of office.

(1) Where possible, appointments shall be made in such a manner as to maintain on the commission at all times a majority of members who have had special training or experience in a design field, such as architecture, landscape design, horticulture, city planning or a closely related field. In addition, when possible, a position shall be made available for the director of the Waterworks Visual Arts Center.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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